

city of santa barbara Water Conservation Program

Lawn Alternatives Climate Appropriate Grasses and Ground Covers

'UC Verde'
Buffalo
Grass

Grown
from
plugs. Can
be mowed
like
regular
lawn.















Grama
grass,
*Bouteloua
gracilis*
(pictured
right)



You can mix grama and buffalo grass. Grama grass, *Bouteloua gracilis*, can be planted by seed during the summer (June/July). Then fill in with Buffalo grass, *Buchloe dactyloides* (native to western prairies, not CA).

Grasses:

Carex pansa			<p>Installed as individual plugs</p> <p>Can be mowed or weed wacked once or twice a year.</p>
Carex praegracilis		 <p>Carex praegracilis lawn in February 2006</p>	<p>Installed as individual plugs</p> <p>Can be mowed or weed wacked once or twice a year - growing about 12" to 15" tall with a graceful, floppy habit.</p>
Carex tumulicola			<p>Installed as individual plugs</p> <p>Can be mowed or weed wacked once or twice a year. Can be used as lawn substitute in part sun or shady areas.</p>
Carex caryophylla 'The Beatles'			<p>Installed as individual plugs</p> <p>Can be mowed or weed wacked once or twice a year.</p>

<p>"No Mow" Grass</p>			<p>Installed by seeding; sod www.nomowgrass.com</p> <p>Blends of fescues which grow to approximately 16" if not mowed or cut. If left to grow long they bunch up and could become tripping hazards.</p>
<p>Slope Saver®</p>			<p>Installed by hydroseeding. http://www.agronotec.com/slopesaver.html</p> <p>Blends of Fescues - Red, Sheep, Hard and Chewing which grow to approximately 16" if not mowed or cut. If left to grow long they bunch up and could become tripping hazards.</p>
<p>Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i></p>			<p>Start from seed (mix with sand) or use individual plugs; Mow about every 6 weeks. If the surface was not going to be walked on, the mowing intervals could be greatly extended.</p>
<p>Roman Chamomile <i>Anthemis nobilis</i></p>			<p>Grow from seed. Seeds can be purchased online.</p> <p>May require overhead watering to really fill in. Forms a thick, 6 inch mat of sweetly scented, finely-cut, bright green leaves. Tolerates light traffic.</p>
<p>Dymondia <i>margaretae</i></p>			<p>Grown from flats. Makes a great plant in between permeable pavers like driveways, stepping stones, or out in the parkway. This is a slowly spreading, very flat (just a few inches tall at best) groundcover with green leaves on top and white underneath. Yellow daisy-like flowers bloom amongst the foliage in summer.</p>

Sustainable Landscape Grant Gardens using climate appropriate plants



Carex lawn



Yarrow in parkway with Dymondia among pavers



Dymondia walkway



Newly planted Buffalo grass

Synthetic Turf

Synthetic turf is another alternative to a lawn however we recommend if you are going to use it, choose polyethylene based turf products only.



Water Conservation Hotline (805) 564-5460 or www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water